

# **How Will the Pastor React?**

**[Short Word Meditation (39)]**

**James Kim**

## **When the sins of families reach to heaven ...**

When the sins of the families reach to heaven,  
I think the Lord may tell (command) me, a pastor like Jonah,  
to go to those families and cry out to them  
that if they do not repent, they will be destroyed  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:2).

## **False pastors are leading God's people astray.**

False pastors are leading God's people astray.  
They speak peace and blessings to those who give them money,  
but they threaten those who do not give them money with bad words.  
God will put these false pastors to shame.  
Therefore, they will hide their faces in shame  
(Ref.: Micah 3:5, 7).

## **The church and its members, who bear countless fruits of deceitful hearts and lies ...**

The church and its members,  
who bear countless fruits of deceitful hearts and lies,  
are continually sinning against God.  
Therefore, at the time God desires,  
He will punish that church and its members,  
and they will all vanish like bubbles  
(Ref.: Hosea 10:7, 9-10).

## **Church members who live bearing the fruits of deceitful hearts and lies**

Church members who live bearing the fruits of deceitful hearts and lies enter into agreements with empty words and unkept promises, which inevitably leads to legal disputes arising like weeds in the fields (Ref.: Hosea 10:4).

## **Church members like calves**

Church members like calves accustomed to lies enjoy trampling on the saints who live according to the truth. However, the Lord will surely place a yoke on the beautiful necks of these calf-like members, making their burdens heavier (Ref.: Hosea 10:11).

## **You will never meet God.**

If you seek God with pride while committing spiritual prostitution, you will never meet God. (Ref.: Hosea 5:3, 5, 6).

## **Thank you, Lord for carrying out Your plans.**

Thank you, Lord,  
for showing your plans to your servants and carrying them out  
(Ref.: Amos 3:7).

## **The Lord will make the valley of suffering a door of hope!**

The Lord's loving discipline is to take us into the wilderness,  
gently admonish us with His words,  
and turn the valley of suffering into a door of hope  
(Ref.: Hosea 2:14-15).

## **Woe to those who become rich by exploiting others like usurers.**

Woe to those who have become rich by exploiting,  
like usurers who collect what is not theirs.  
How long will you continue to do this?  
(Ref.: Habakkuk 2:6)

## **There will be suffering.**

There will be suffering for the foolish children of God  
whose sins pile up and pile up  
(Ref.: Hosea 13:12-13).

## **Arrogant rulers**

Arrogant rulers rise at night to plan evil deeds,  
and when morning comes, they put them into action.  
They seize and plunder others' properties and possessions,  
and they torment people. Woe to these wicked rulers!  
God will bring upon them an inescapable disaster.  
When they face this disaster, they will no longer be able to boast  
(Ref.: Micah 2:1-3).

## **The arrogant rulers are like soldiers returning from war...**

The arrogant rulers not only strip  
the outer garments of those who pass by peacefully,  
like soldiers returning from battle,  
but also drive powerless women out of their comfortable homes  
and rob their children of God's blessings  
(Ref.: Micah 2:8-9).

## **Due to the evil deeds of arrogant rulers ...**

When citizens experience bitter suffering  
due to the evil deeds of arrogant rulers, t  
hey may think, 'We are completely ruined'  
(Ref.: Micah 2:4).

## **If the church members do not fully fear God ...**

If the church members do not fully fear God,  
there will be no perfect shepherd established by the Lord for them.  
Even if they do have a shepherd, they will think,  
'Even if we have a shepherd, what can he do for us?'  
(Ref.: Hosea 10:3)

## **If a church relies on its own strength and many members ...**

If a church relies on its own strength and many members,  
and those members sow evil, reap evil, and eat the fruit of lies,  
then divisions will inevitably arise in that church and it will fall apart  
(Ref.: Hosea 10:13-14).

## **The church has done many events to cover up sin ...**

The church has done many events to cover up sin,  
but isn't it the case that these events have actually led to more sin?  
(Ref.: Hosea 8:11)

## **When the church breaks the Lord's commandments ...**

When we, the Lord's church,  
break the covenant we made with the Lord  
and break the Lord's commandments,  
the enemies of the church will attack the Lord's church  
(Ref.: Hosea 8:1).

## **In order for the church to calm the storms of the community ...**

In order for the church to calm the storms of the community,  
a pastor who fully knows that encountering the church's storms is his fault  
must deny himself, take up the cross given to him, and thoroughly repent.  
Similarly, for a family, the head of the household, the husband/father,  
must recognize that it is his fault and repent for the family to thrive  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:12).

## **Could it be that the sins and evils of the church are being revealed?**

Could it be that the sins and evils of the church are being revealed every time the Lord tries to heal His church?

Are we now deceiving one another, hating one another, and even defrauding one another within the church?

(Ref.: Hosea 7:1)

## **In return, they will be punished.**

Those who have arrogantly insulted and mocked the people of Almighty God will be punished in return

(Ref.: Zephaniah 2:10).

## **At that time, we will acknowledge the Lord as God.**

The Lord, the bridegroom, will make us his wife forever, and will bestow upon us faithfulness, love, and mercy, and will receive us in truth.

At that time, we will acknowledge the Lord as God

(Reference: Hosea 2:19-20).



## **How will the pastor react?**

When a disobedient pastor and people of the world who do not believe in Jesus are in the same boat and face a great crisis, if those unbelievers say, 'Let's draw lots to find out who is responsible for this great crisis,' and the lot falls on that disobedient pastor, how will he react?  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:7)

## **Would that pastor's conscience be pricked?**

If the unbelievers who are with the disobedient pastor were to hear his confession and then say, "Why did you do this?" would that pastor's conscience be pricked?  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:10)

## **How would that pastor look in the eyes of those unbelievers?**

While the unbelievers were each crying out to their own gods for help, trying to somehow save the ship that was almost wrecked by throwing the cargo into the sea, the servant of the Lord who believed in God was sleeping at that time and not even praying to God for help, how would that pastor look in the eyes of those unbelievers?  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:4-6)

## **The actions of that person will return upon their own head.**

Those who look upon their brother's misfortune with satisfaction,  
who rejoice and gloat when he suffers, and who take hold of his possessions,  
will surely be repaid by God according to their deeds.

The actions of that person will return upon their own head  
(Ref.: Obadiah 1:12-15).

## **The people of that world are false.**

This idolatrous world is full of sin  
and the people of that world are false  
(Ref.: Hosea 12:11).

## **They will pay the price for their sins.**

Because their hearts are deceitful,  
they bear the fruit of lies,  
and the church members who bear much of that fruit  
will pay the price for their sins  
(Ref.: Hosea 10:2, 13).

## **He will repay them according to their deeds.**

God will rebuke those who engage in lies and violence,  
for all their actions are as futile and destructive as chasing the wind.  
He will punish them for their deeds and repay them according to what they have done  
(Ref.: Hosea 12:1-2).

## **Only then can the church be saved.**

If the members try their best to save an disobedient pastor  
by loving him and extending grace,  
but if the Lord's will is for that pastor to be 'thrown into the sea,'  
He will let 'the increasingly fierce waves' crash upon the church,  
compelling the members to 'throw him into the sea.'  
Only then can the church be saved  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:13-15).

## **Therefore, we can only say, 'The Lord is my God.'**

The Lord has shown love to us,  
who are unlovable, and has made us His children,  
though we were once children of Satan.  
Thus, we can only say, 'The Lord is my God'  
(Ref.: Hosea 2:23).

**Such substances should not be offered  
as offerings during worship in God's temple.**

While engaging in such spiritual prostitution,  
all the substances claimed to be offered to God are like food from a funeral,  
and those who consume them will be defiled.  
Such substances should not be offered as offerings during worship in God's temple  
(Ref.: Hosea 9:1, 4).

**Such people are like morning mist and dew  
that quickly disappears.**

Because a person who idolizes money has sinned,  
those who envy and admire that person, seeing their downfall,  
do not repent but instead commit the same sins even more.  
Ultimately, they too will face destruction.  
Such people are like morning mist and dew that quickly disappears,  
like chaff blowing in the threshing floor and like smoke rising from a chimney  
(Ref.: Hosea 13:1-3; Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:10).

**God will speak to him.**

God will meet a person like Jacob in the house of God  
who is weeping and asking for God's blessing  
and will speak to him  
(Ref.: Hosea 12:3-4).

**In all his ways, there are things  
like a birdcatcher's net waiting for him.**

A pastor, a servant of God, is a watchman who guards the Lord's church with God,  
but in all his ways, there are things like a birdcatcher's net waiting for him.

The reason is that in the house of God,  
there is resentment and hostility

(Ref.: Hosea 9:8).

**‘Only then’ will the bride, the church,  
return to the Bridegroom, the Lord.**

In other words, when we, as the church, love money more than Jesus  
and seek it fervently, but the Lord continually blocks our way,  
only then, when we are unable to obtain money,  
will we return to the Lord in our poverty.

The reason is that the condition in which we followed and sought the Lord  
was far better than the current state of being impoverished while chasing after money"  
(Ref.: Hosea 2:7).

As I meditated on this,

I was reminded of the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32).

Perhaps the reason is that the prodigal son went to a far country and lived a wasteful life,  
squandering all his possessions until he found himself in poverty.

‘Only then’ (v. 17) did he come to his senses and say,

"In my father's house, there is plenty of food,

and the hired servants have more than enough, but I am here dying of hunger!"

After saying this, he rose and returned to his father (vv. 17-20).

## **Have joy and gladness disappeared?**

Have joy and gladness disappeared from the temple of God?

(Ref.: Joel 1:16)

## **May God make us realize.**

May God make us realize the righteous things He has done for us

(Ref.: Micah 6:5).

## **It will come to an end.**

The days of the famous and popular,

living a life of luxury and leisure,

will come to an end

(Ref.: Amos 6:1, 7).

## **He says, "There is no savior besides me."**

Our God, who led us out of the kingdom of Satan,  
like Egypt, says,  
"You shall have no other gods besides me.  
There is no savior besides me"  
(Ref.: Hosea 13:4).

**‘I hate and despise your religious practices;  
I take no pleasure in your assemblies.’**

Perhaps God is saying to us now:  
‘I hate and despise your religious practices;  
I take no pleasure in your assemblies’  
(Amos 5:21).

## **'I will wait until you repent of all the sins you have committed, return to me, and seek me'**

The prophet Hosea obeyed God's command

to 'go again and love your wife who is an adulteress.'

He 'paid about 170 grams of silver and 18 measures of barley

to buy his wife and said to her, "You must stay alone for a time.

You must not go after other men or act like a prostitute anymore.

I will wait for you" (Hosea 3:1-3).

As I meditate on this passage, I have these thoughts:

(1) God the Father is telling His Son, Jesus Christ, to 'go again and love your wife,' meaning the church, which has been unfaithful.

(2) Jesus Christ obeyed the Father's command by paying the price of His life on the cross as the ransom for our sins to purchase us.

(3) I believe the bridegroom, the Lord, is saying the following to us, His bride, the church:

(a) 'You must no longer engage in spiritual prostitution' (Ref.: Hosea 3:3),

(b) 'You shall have no other gods before me' (Exodus 20:3),

(c) 'Now do not defile yourselves any longer by serving other idols' (Ref.: Ezekiel 37:23),

(d) 'I will wait until you repent of all the sins you have committed, return to me, and seek me' (Ref.: Hosea 3:3, 5:15).

## **The leaders of the nation are supposed to be those who realize justice.**

The leaders of the nation are supposed to be those who realize justice.

If they hate good and love evil, how much suffering will the citizens endure?

The same applies to the church. If the church leaders, such as teaching elders (TE) and ruling elders (RE), hate good and love evil, failing to realize justice,

how much hurt and pain will the church members experience?

The issues in both the nation and the church stem from us, the leaders (Ref.: Micah 3:1-3).



## **If the roots of a tree dry up, the tree cannot bear fruit.**

If the roots of a tree dry up, the tree cannot bear fruit.

If the roots of a parent's faith dry up,  
the child of that parent cannot bear fruit of faith.

(Ref.: Hosea 9:16).

## **The disobedient Jonah who went down and down again, and the obedient Jesus who went up and up again**

Jonah, who disobeyed God's word,

tried to flee from the Lord's presence by going

(1) down to Joppa, (2) boarding a ship to Tarshish (Jonah 1:3),

and (3) going down to the hold of the ship (v. 5).

Ultimately, he went (4) down to the very bottom of the sea (2:6).

While Jonah descended to the depths of the sea in his disobedience,

the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ,

who obeyed the will of God the Father

even to the point of death on the cross (Philippians 2:8),

ascended the road to Golgotha.

He went up to the cursed tree, the cross

(Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13), and died for us.

'Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and given Him

the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father'

(Philippians 2:9-11).

## **'Go again and love your wife who is an adulteress.'**

God commanded the prophet Hosea,

'Go again and love your wife who is an adulteress.'

The reason is that God 'still loves' the people of Israel,  
who are spiritually unfaithful

by serving other gods and offering sacrifices to idols.

Therefore, God instructed the prophet Hosea to 'love your wife,  
just as I, the Lord, still love them' (Hosea 3:1).

As I reflected on this passage, I was reminded of Matthew 5:31:

'But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife,

except for sexual immorality,

causes her to become an adulteress,

and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.'

I think of this verse because it is often considered a valid reason for divorce.

In other words, 'If one spouse commits adultery,

they have broken their marriage vows,

and the marital relationship has already been dissolved' (Internet),

which leads many to believe that divorce is permissible.

However, the bridegroom, the Lord, continues to 'still love' us, His bride

(Hosea 3:1), even as we spiritually commit adultery

and love money more than Him

(Ref.: Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:14).

Even if we are unfaithful, the Lord is always faithful

because He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13).

Therefore, should we not also 'go again and love our wife (or husband)

who has committed adultery,' as God commanded the prophet Hosea?

(Hosea 3:1). Should we not also 'not separate what God has joined together'?

(Ref.: Mark 10:9).

Shouldn't we "still" love our wives (husbands)

just as the Lord "still" loves them (Hosea 3:1),

even though they 'still rebel against me (us)

and do not obey me' (Leviticus 26:27)?

**‘You have appointed pastors,  
but you have appointed them without My consent’?**

Could it be that the Lord is now saying to us, His church,  
‘You have appointed pastors,  
but you have appointed them without My consent’?  
(Ref.: Hosea 8:4)

**‘Who are you, really?’ what would the pastor say?**

If those unbelievers were to ask the disobedient pastor,  
‘Tell us why we are facing this great crisis. Who are you, really?’  
what would the pastor say? Could the pastor truly respond,  
‘I am a Christian who believes in Jesus and a pastor who serves God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth’?  
Could the pastor honestly confess to the unbelievers,  
‘I have disobeyed God's word (command) and am currently fleeing from Him’?  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:8-10)

**Those who are captivated by money, come to church physically ...**

Those who are captivated by money, come to church physically  
but love money more than the Lord in their hearts,  
and do not have the awareness to pursue it, will perish  
(Ref.: Hosea 4:14).

## **When I meditate on the words of God that came to Jonah ‘the second time’ ...**

The word of the Lord came to Jonah 'a second time':

'Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you'  
(Jonah 3:1-2).

As I reflect on this passage, several thoughts come to mind:

(1) When Jonah disobeyed the first time the word of the Lord came to him (1:1-3),  
God gave him a second chance.

Even though, like Jonah, I am a pastor who should obey the Lord's word  
with a sense of duty, I have disobeyed time and again.

Yet, the Lord in His love has given me countless chances.

This reminds me of Psalms 139:17-18:

“How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.

When I awake, I am still with you.”

(2) When I reflect on the fact that the word of the Lord came to Jonah 'a second time,'

I also think of the passage, 'While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard,  
the word of the Lord came to him a second time' (Jeremiah 33:1).

In doing so, I am reminded that the Lord, who has given me countless opportunities,  
continues to bring to my mind the promise of the five loaves and two fish  
(the miracle in which Jesus fed 5,000 men with five loaves of bread and two fish)  
from John 6:1-15, which He gave me during the May 1987 college retreat  
of Victory Presbyterian Church through the guest pastor.

Each time, the Lord has used that word to raise me up like a roly poly,  
even when I felt discouraged and disappointed in myself.

(3) I compared the word of the Lord that came to Jonah a second time  
(Jonah 3:2) with the word that came to him the first time (1:2).

In doing so, I noticed that God's message was the same: 'Go to the great city of Nineveh.'

As I reflected on the word 'Go,' I was reminded of the passage where Jesus,  
in a loud voice, told the man in Lystra who had been lame from birth and unable to walk,  
'Stand up on your feet,' and the man got up and walked (Acts 14:8-10).

From this, I realized that the Lord must raise me, a spiritual paralytic,

with His powerful word in order for me to be able to rise.

I believe the Lord's command, 'Go' (Jonah 1:2; 3:2), is the same.

Clearly, the Lord has also said to me,

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”

(Matthew 28:19-20).

But I believe that it is the Lord who must send me in order for me to go.

In this way, without the Lord's help,

I am unable to obey His command to 'Rise ... and go.'

(4) The difference between the first and second word of the Lord

that came to Jonah seems to be this:

'Proclaim to it the message I give you' (Jonah 3:2) versus

'Cry out against it, because its wickedness has come up before me' (1:2).

When I compare these two words from God, I am led to wonder,

'What exactly was the message God wanted Jonah, the prophet,

to proclaim to the people of the great city of Nineveh?'

When I reflected on this, I realized that if we read

the first and second words of the Lord to Jonah in the Modern Korean Version,

God's consistent message is 'Proclaim that the city of Nineveh will be destroyed'

(1:2; 3:2). So, the prophet Jonah obeyed God's word, went to Nineveh,

and spent the whole day walking around, proclaiming that

the city would be destroyed in forty days (3:3-4).

As I reflect on this and apply it to myself,

I question whether it is right in God's eyes

to proclaim messages of 'blessing' or 'comfort' to sinners,

instead of proclaiming God's message of 'repentance.'

## **We who were “Lo-Ammi” and “Lo-Ruhamah” have now become “Ammi” and “Ruhamah”!**

We who were “Lo-Ammi” have now become “Ammi.”

That is, we were not God’s people, but now we are God’s people.

We were “Lo-Ruhamah,” but now we have become “Ruhamah.”

That is, we were not God’s beloved, but now we are God’s beloved.

(Ref.: Hosea 1:6, 9; 2:1).

This amazing change is because Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
who is “Ruhamah,” became “Lo-Ruhamah” on the cross to save us,  
and was forsaken by God the Father

(Ref.: Matthew 27:46).

## **A person whose heart is dull**

A person whose heart is dull

will not even know

when his friends have dug a trap for him to fall

(Ref.: Obadiah 1:7).

## **If the leaders of the church are those who rebel against God ...**

If the leaders of the church are those who rebel against God,

God will drive them out of His house because their actions are evil

and He will never love them again

(Ref.: Hosea 9:15).

## **If the pastors have made idols of their hearts with money ...**

If the pastors whom people have appointed  
have made idols of their hearts with money,  
this will be their destruction  
(Ref.: Hosea 8:4).

## **If we are stubborn like stubborn heifers ...**

If we are stubborn like stubborn heifers,  
how can the Lord feed us like lambs in the pasture?  
(Ref.: Hosea 4:16)

## **If we idolize money and choose to follow it ...**

If we idolize money and choose to follow it,  
we will be broken and crushed by God's judgment  
(Ref.: Hosea 5:11; Matthew 6:24).

## **If we are attached to money as an idol ...**

If we are attached to money as an idol,  
and if the Lord leaves us to love and pursue money as spiritual prostitutes,  
then we are rejoicing in shame and we will surely be put to shame  
because of our love of money  
(Ref.: Hosea 4:17-19).

## **If we are not living a Christ-centered life (or church-centered life) ...**

If we are not living a Christ-centered life (or church-centered life),  
we will sow much but harvest little, we will eat but not be satisfied,  
we will drink but not have our fill, we will wear clothes but not be warm,  
and we will earn wages only to put them in a purse with holes.  
In other words, if we are not living a Christ-centered life (or church-centered life),  
no matter how much we expect to reap, we will receive little,  
and even what we bring home, God will blow away.  
The reason for this is that, while the house of God remains in ruins,  
we have been preoccupied only with our own homes  
(Ref.: Haggai 1:6, 9).



## **If the Lord tests us, His church, with a 'plumb line' ...**

If the Lord tests us, His church, with a 'plumb line'  
[a line with a weight (such as a stone or metal) attached to it.  
This tool was used to check the vertical alignment of walls  
during construction' (Internet)], could it be that  
our spiritual or moral state is already crooked and at risk of collapse?  
(Ref.: Amos 7:7-9).

## **We must stay away ...**

We must stay away from those  
who practice lies and violence  
(Ref.: Hosea 12:1; Proverbs 1:15, 14:7).

## **The more pastors there are, the more they sin against the Lord?**

Could it be that the church is perishing  
because it does not have the knowledge of the Lord, who is the head of the church?  
Could it be that the pastors of the church do not acknowledge the Lord  
and have forgotten His commandments?  
So, the more pastors there are, the more they sin against the Lord.  
If so, the Lord will turn the glory of the pastors into shame  
(Ref.: Hosea 4:6-7).

## **Just as a shepherd gathers the flock into the fold ...**

Just as a shepherd gathers the flock into the fold,  
the Lord, our Good Shepherd, will surely gather the 'remnant'—  
those whom God loved and chose before the foundation of the world—  
who have not yet entered the Lord's church, and bring them into His church.  
At that time, just as the sheepfold is filled with flocks,  
the Lord's church will be bustling with countless people of God.  
The Lord will stand at the front and lead them out of this world  
stained by sin, guiding them to the eternal kingdom of heaven  
(Ref.: Micah 2:12-13).

## **Just as the sea is filled with water**

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God,  
just as the sea is filled with water  
(Habakkuk 2:14).

## **Isn't it the church?**

Where is the center of sin in Korea?  
Isn't it the capital city of Seoul?  
Where is the hotbed of idolizing  
and worshiping money in the capital city of Seoul?  
Isn't it the church?  
(Ref.: Micah 1:5)

## **Pastors who love money like the Pharisees ...**

Pastors who love money like the Pharisees  
are arrogant and do not acknowledge God,  
so because of their sins, not only themselves  
but also the members of the church will fall  
(Ref.: Hosea 5:4-5; Luke 16:14).

## **Pastors who are treated as fools?**

The reason why pastors who preach the true gospel of Jesus Christ  
are treated as fools or even crazy may be because the sins of the church members  
who hear the true gospel through those pastors are many and their hostility is strong  
(Ref.: Hosea 9:7).

## **This land, defiled by sin and destined for destruction ...**

This land, defiled by sin and destined for destruction,  
is no place for us to rest,  
so we must rise up, leave this land,  
and continue to move forward toward the higher places  
(Ref.: Micah 2:10).

## **The Lord, who is the Rock ...**

The Lord, who is the Rock, can even raise up our enemies  
in order to discipline us with love for our sins and unrepentance  
(Ref.: Habakkuk 1:12).

## **To flourish and prosper**

The Lord's church will continue to flourish  
and prosper from generation to generation  
(Ref.: Joel 3:20).

## **Our feeble strength**

We should never rejoice in vain things  
and boast about our feeble strength  
(Ref.: Amos 6:13).

## **A person who takes unfair advantage**

Woe to him who takes unfair advantage of his own house  
(Habakkuk 2:9)

## **Because you cry out but reject what is good?**

Though we, as the Lord's church, cry out with our lips,  
'O God, we acknowledge You,' we are rejecting what is good,  
and because of this, the enemies of the church are pursuing us  
(Ref.: Hosea 8:2-3).

## **The rich collude with them to satisfy their own desires.**

Good and honest people are gradually disappearing from the world,  
and only murderers and those who seek to harm their brothers remain.  
They are all accustomed to doing evil, while the powerful demand bribes,  
and the rich collude with them to satisfy their own desires.  
As God has warned them, the day of punishment is approaching for them.  
From now on, there will be chaos for them  
(Ref.: Micah 7:2-4).

## **Injustice prevails**

Because we cry out and reject what is good?  
Destruction and violence are before us,  
and strife and conflict are everywhere.  
So the law is ignored and justice is not done.  
The wicked surround the righteous, and injustice prevails  
(Habakkuk 1:3-4).

## **Disobedient Christians**

Disobedient Christians will become wanderers in the world  
(Ref.: Hosea 9:17).

### **Because of a disobedient pastor ...**

If believers who are suffering because of a disobedient pastor  
do their best to avoid the crisis of the church by crying out to God,  
but that pastor is deeply asleep spiritually,  
won't the church sink like a ship?  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:4-5)

### **A disobedient pastor is doomed to go downhill.**

A disobedient pastor is doomed to go downhill.  
For such a pastor like Jonah,  
the Lord sends a "strong wind" into his life,  
causing a "storm" to break his proud heart  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:3-4).

## **A disobedient pastor can also cause enough harm to the unbelievers.**

A disobedient pastor can also cause enough harm  
to the unbelievers who are present.

At that time, God may rebuke the pastor  
who is deeply asleep spiritually through one of those unbelievers  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:5-6).

## **Because of the disobedient pastor ...**

Even the church members who are present suffer  
because of the disobedient pastor  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:4-5).

## **The only way to immediately calm the hearts of angry church members toward a disobedient pastor is ...**

The only way to immediately calm the hearts of angry church members  
toward a disobedient pastor is for the pastor to repent thoroughly.

The only way to immediately calm the hearts of angry family members in a family  
is for the head of the family to repent thoroughly  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:15).

**Even if we cannot escape the suffering we face,  
we should empathize with the anguish of God the Father...**

The God who prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah,  
who fell into the sea (Jonah 1:17),  
also prepared a vine (4:6) to provide shade over Jonah's head,  
allowing him to escape the heat and alleviating his suffering.  
As a result, Jonah was greatly pleased because of the vine (4:6).  
God, who relieved Jonah's distress when he was so angry with Him  
that he wished to die rather than submit his will to God's,  
must have had some thoughts upon seeing Jonah,  
now relieved of his anguish, greatly rejoice because of the vine.  
God spoke to Jonah: 'You have been concerned about this vine,  
though you did not tend it or make it grow.  
It sprang up overnight and died overnight.  
But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people  
who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many animals as well.  
Should I not be concerned about that great city?' (vv. 10-11).  
When I think of Jonah, who cherished the vine that relieved his suffering,  
and God, who cared for the people of Nineveh,  
we must reflect on whether we are cherishing those  
whom God cares for with the heart of our Heavenly Father.  
Even if we cannot escape the suffering we face,  
we should empathize, even just a little, with the anguish of God the Father  
for the dying souls, and strive to work for their salvation.  
When we do this, we will rejoice greatly  
when we witness God's amazing work of salvation.



## **Even though we leave God and go toward this world ...**

Even though we leave God and go toward this world,  
God never gives up on us and never abandons us.  
Rather, God the Father's heart is filled with compassion for us  
(Ref.: Hosea 11:8).

## **Even if our enemies are our own family members ...**

Even if our enemies are our own family members,  
we should look up to God and look to the God of our salvation.  
God will hear our prayers  
(Ref.: Micah 7:6-7).

## **We shouldn't be deceitful.**

We must not be like the merchant who cheats with his scales,  
being dishonest and deceitful  
(Ref.: Hosea 12:7).

## **The day of God's calamity is coming are bringing it closer.**

The wicked deeds of those who refuse to acknowledge  
that the day of God's calamity is coming are bringing it closer  
(Ref.: Amos 6:3).

## **The gods made by men**

The gods made by men will be crushed  
(Ref.: Hosea 8:6).

## **The holy God, who is not a human being ...**

The holy God, who is not a human being,  
will never again punish us in anger or destroy us again  
(Ref.: Hosea 11:9).

## **Through great crises in life ...**

Through great crises in life,  
a Christian who humbly acknowledges in faith  
that 'salvation comes from the Lord' will,  
even when it feels like they are at the very bottom of life,  
trapped in the land of death, worship the Lord  
with songs of thanksgiving and obey God's word  
(Ref.: Jonah 2:9).

## **What good is it if you are beautiful on the outside ...**

What good is it if you are beautiful on the outside  
and bear much fruit while your heart is deceitful?  
(Ref.: Hosea 10:1-2)

## **He does not know the words of Deuteronomy 8:17-18.**

A person who confidently says,  
'Surely I am rich. I have earned my wealth through my own efforts,  
so no one will find anything wrong with me' (Hosea 12:8)  
is someone who does not know the words of Deuteronomy 8:17-18:  
'You should not think that it is by your own strength and power  
that you have become wealthy.  
Remember that it is the Lord your God  
who gives you the ability to produce wealth ....'

## **In reality, we are like Jonah, even less than a worm.**

The Lord, who used unbelieving sailors as instruments,  
commanded them to throw Jonah into the depths of the sea  
and had already prepared a great fish to swallow him  
(Jonah 1:13-15, 17; 2:3).

And the Lord made Jonah cry out to Him  
from the belly of the great fish for three days and nights (1:17),  
ultimately leading him to confess, 'Salvation comes from the Lord' (v. 9).  
Only then did the Lord command the great fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land (v. 10).  
While the great fish obeyed the Creator's command,  
foolish prophet Jonah disobeyed the Lord's command.

The first verse of the hymn "Alas! And Did my Saviour Bleed" goes:

"Alas! and did my Savior bleed, And did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?"

However, in reality, we are like Jonah, even less than a worm.

Yet the Lord has saved us. "Was it for crimes that I have done,  
He suffered on the tree? Amazing pity! grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!" (v. 2).

## **God will make them useless.**

God will make all the gods of the world useless (Zephaniah 2:11)

## **We should be careful about what we say to our wives.**

We should not trust our neighbors, we should not put our trust in our friends,  
and we should be careful about what we say to our wives who lie in our arms  
(Ref.: Micah 7:5).

## **Beautiful are the feet of those ...**

Beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the gospel of peace in Jesus Christ  
(Ref.: Nahum 1:15; Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15).

## **“The pastors and church members are equally wicked”?**

Perhaps the Lord is saying  
to the pastors and church members who are committing sins,  
“The pastors and church members are equally wicked”  
(Ref.: Hosea 4:9).

## **Wicked rich people exploit the poor and are accustomed to lying ...**

Wicked rich people exploit the poor and are accustomed to lying;  
their tongues cannot speak the truth.  
God will strike and wound them,  
and all the wealth they have accumulated will not be preserved  
but will perish, and because of their sins,  
they will become miserable  
(Ref.: Micah 6:12-14).

## **How did a disobedient person change into an obedient person?**

When the word of God came to Jonah a second time,  
he obeyed and went to Nineveh,  
a very large city that took three days to walk through. He proclaimed,  
'In forty days, Nineveh will be overthrown' (Jonah 3:1-4).  
As I reflected on this passage, I focused on the fact that Jonah,  
who had previously disobeyed when the word of God first came to him,  
chose to obey when the word came a second time.

How did this servant of the Lord, who had been disobedient,  
transform into someone who followed God's word so faithfully?

The transformation of Jonah from a disobedient servant in chapter 1  
to an obedient one in chapter 3 is attributed to his cries to God  
in the belly of the great fish for three days and nights (1:17)  
while he was in distress (2:1-2).

Even in the depths of the sea,  
he turned his gaze toward the Lord's temple (vv. 3-4)  
and earnestly sought the Lord's help.

When he called out, the Lord heard his voice (2:2)  
and saved his life from death (6:6).

In short, Jonah's change from disobedience to obedience came  
because he realized, acknowledged, and confessed  
that 'salvation comes from the Lord' while he was in the land of the dead (6:6)  
or in a place like a grave (2:2), experiencing God's salvation (vv. 9-10).

## **How could Jonah, a servant of God, be so displeased and angry to the point of wishing to die over God's decision to relent from bringing disaster upon the repentant people of Nineveh?**

God saw that the people of Nineveh turned from their evil ways, and He relented from the disaster He had said He would bring upon them (Jonah 3:10).

However, Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry (4:1).

He was so upset that he prayed to God, saying,

'I would rather die than live' (v. 3). What was the reason for this?

Could it be that Jonah wanted the Assyrians, who were enemies of the people of Israel (since Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, the Ninevites were Assyrians), to truly be destroyed? (See 3:4, Contemporary Bible).

If this is the case, the Bible clearly states,

'God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth' (1 Timothy 2:4).

How could Jonah, as a prophet of God, wish for the people of Nineveh to be destroyed rather than saved?

God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

How could Jonah, a servant of God, be so displeased and angry to the point of wishing to die over God's decision to relent from bringing disaster upon the repentant people of Nineveh?

## **How can a pastor, who is a servant of the Lord, make such excuses for his disobedience to the Word of God?**

Jonah was very angry and resentful of God's change of heart and prayed to God:

“Lord, did I not say this when I was still in my country that you would do this?

So I quickly fled back to my own country. I know that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abounding in love, who relents and does not send calamity.

Now, Lord, take my life away; for it is better for me to die than to live”(Jonah 4:2-3).

When I meditate on this passage, several thoughts come to mind:

(1) How could Jonah be so displeased and angry about God changing His mind while still praying to Him? Could it be that Jonah was trying to impose his own will on God rather than submitting to God's will?

If this is the case, it seems that Jonah had a heart very far from that of Jesus, who prayed: '... yet not my will, but yours be done' (Luke 22:42).

(2) How could Jonah, after fleeing to Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh as God commanded (Jonah 1:2), pray to God, saying that he knew God would change His mind and not bring disaster upon the people of Nineveh when he was at home (4:2)? How could a servant of the Lord, a prophet, justify his disobedience to God's command in this way?

Is his excuse really reasonable?

(3) God prepared a great fish to rescue Jonah, who had been thrown into the sea (1:17).

After Jonah cried out to God from the belly of the fish for three days (chapter 2),

God spoke to him a second time, giving him the opportunity to obey His word.

As a result, the people of Nineveh received God's message through Jonah,

believed in God (3:4), repented of their wrongdoings,

and turned from their evil ways (vv. 8, 10).

Because God relented from bringing the disaster He had planned for them,

how could Jonah be so angry that he wished to die? Is that why God asked Jonah,

'Do you have any right to be angry?' (4:4)

(4) If Jonah truly knew that God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love, and that He relents from sending calamity (2:2),

how could he be ungracious and unmerciful toward the repentant people of Nineveh, harboring such anger and showing no love for them?



## **Perhaps if the pastor of a church falls ...**

Perhaps if the pastor of a church falls,  
the church members with him may also fall  
(Ref.: Hosea 4:5).

## **Perhaps money is stealing our hearts as children of God.**

Perhaps money is stealing our hearts as children of God.  
So if our church, the bride, is deceived by the spirit of spiritual obscenity  
and turns away from the bridegroom Jesus and acts as a spiritual prostitute  
by chasing other gods (money?), we will not be satisfied even if we eat  
and our numbers will not increase  
(Ref.: Hosea 4:10-12).

## **We who are spiritually staggering**

Now, the prophecy of Amos 8:11 has been fulfilled,  
and the church members are spiritually starving and thirsty  
because they cannot hear the word of God.  
So now, they are spiritually staggering  
and going to various churches to find the word of God,  
but they are not able to obtain it  
(Ref.: Amos 8:11-12).

## **The reason why worship does not please us?**

The reason why worship does not please us may be  
because we have someone in our hearts  
that we love more than God,  
and we commit spiritual fornication with that person,  
loving the price of spiritual fornication  
(Ref.: Hosea 9:1, 4).

## **They do not know how to do what is right.**

Those who fill their mansions with  
what they have taken and plundered  
do not know how to do what is right  
(Ref.: Amos 3:10).

## **Why did Jonah believe so strongly that he was in the right?**

God, who prepared a great fish (Jonah 1:10) and a gourd plant (4:6), also prepared a worm that ate the gourd plant at dawn the next day, causing it to wither and wither away the plant that had saved Jonah from his suffering (v. 7).

And God prepared a hot east wind when the sun rose, so that Jonah almost fainted from the heat of the sun beating down on his head. So he wanted to die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live" (v. 8).

Then God said to Jonah,

"Is it right for you to be angry because of the gourd plant?"

Then Jonah said, "I am right to be angry, even to death" (v. 9).

When I meditate on this passage, I receive several lessons:

(1) Our God is a God who prepares. He prepares things like the great fish to rescue us and things like the vine to relieve our suffering.

Moreover, God also prepares worms to remove the shade that the vine provided in our lives.

Additionally, He prepares 'scorching east winds' that can bring us to the brink of collapse.

(2) Like Jonah, we greatly rejoice over the great fish or vine that are beneficial to us (Jonah 4:6), yet we dislike and become angry at the worms or scorching east winds that seem to cause us great distress (Ref.: 4:1).

We should pay attention to the words in Romans 8:28:

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.'

(3) When God asked Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' (Jonah 4:4), and later questioned him, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the vine?' (v. 9), we see that while God was in the right, Jonah was not.

Yet he still insisted, 'I am so angry I wish I were dead' (v. 9).

Why did Jonah believe so strongly that he was in the right?

## **If we fall deep into the “sin of murder” of refusing to forgive ...**

If we fall deep into the “sin of murder” of refusing to forgive  
and continuing to hate, God will discipline us  
(Ref.: Hosea 5:2; 1 John 3:15).

## **Shouldn't pastors mourn and lament?**

Shouldn't pastors mourn and lament  
over the sin of idolizing and worshiping money?  
(Ref.: Micah 1:8)

The hymn “Hover O'er me, Holy Spirit”

verse 1 and chorus:

Hover o'er me, Holy Spirit,  
Bathe my trembling heart and brow;  
Fill me with Thy hallowed presence, Come,  
O come and fill me now.  
Fill me now, fill me now,  
Jesus, come and fill me now;  
Fill me with Thy hallowed presence;  
Come, O come and fill me now. Amen.”

**Even if we, like foolish Jonah, disobey God's word  
and face crises in our lives, such as 'great winds,'  
'great storms,' 'great waves,' or 'great billows' ...**

God, who had commanded Jonah  
and saw him fleeing in disobedience,  
caused a great wind to rise over the sea,  
resulting in a great storm in the midst of the ocean.  
Jonah was thrown into the deep sea, and the waters surrounded him,  
while the Lord's great waves crashed over him  
(Jonah 1:4; 2:3).  
Ultimately, the great God,  
who is the great King above all gods (Psalms 95:3),  
loved Jonah with His great love (106:45),  
causing him to cry out to his God  
from the belly of the great fish (1:17; 2:1).  
God allowed him to be surrounded  
by the great waters of the deep sea  
and the Lord's waves and great billows to overwhelm him,  
directing his gaze toward the Lord's temple (2:3-4).  
Even if we, like foolish Jonah,  
disobey God's word and face crises in our lives,  
such as 'great winds,' 'great storms,' 'great waves,' or 'great billows,'  
making us feel as if we have sunk to the depths of the sea,  
we must still look up to our Father in heaven  
from those depths and seek our 'Abba Father.'  
Even if we feel like we have been  
cast away from the Lord's presence (Ref.: v. 4),  
we must turn our eyes back to Him!

## **Even if the Lord's church seems insignificant in our eyes ...**

Even if the Lord's church seems insignificant in our eyes,  
we should not be afraid but rather have courage  
and strength to work for the church.

The Almighty God is always with us!

(Ref.: Haggai 2:3-5).

## **The only way for us to live**

The only way for us to live is to seek God

(Ref.: Amos 5:6).

## **To repent of our sins and return to Him**

The Bridegroom, our Lord, will lead us, His bride,  
who have been chasing after other idols  
and committing spiritual adultery,  
to repent of our sins and return to Him.

In the last days, we will fear our Lord God  
and receive His blessings

(Ref.: Hosea 3:5).

## **We will see God's salvation.**

Although we have sinned against God and may temporarily face His loving discipline, if we endure that discipline with the assurance of forgiveness while repenting, God will lead us into the light. We will see God's salvation  
(Ref.: Micah 7:9).

## **We should not despise the humble.**

We should not trample the powerless like the dust of the earth.  
And we should not despise the humble  
(Ref.: Amos 2:7).

## **We must live according to that truth.**

Let us all go up to the temple of God where God is and listen to the word of God.  
God will teach us the truth, and we must live according to that truth  
(Ref.: Micah 4:2).

## **We are making our actions even more depraved.**

God tells us, "Fear me and learn from me, so that your dwellings will not be destroyed, and I will not punish you with the punishment I intend to inflict on you,"  
but we are making our actions even more depraved  
(Ref.: Zephaniah 3:7).

## **We should seek the Lord's help even from places that feel like graves.**

Jonah, the prophet, who was fleeing from God in disobedience, experienced suffering, but in his pain, he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord answered him.

He sought help from the Lord from a place like the grave, and the Lord heard his voice  
(Jonah 1:1-3; 2:2).

As I reflect on this passage, I receive three lessons:

- (1) When we face suffering as a result of our disobedience, we must cry out to the Lord,
- (2) We should seek the Lord's help even from places that feel like graves,
- (3) The Lord hears our cries and is the God who answers us!"



## **We will not die.**

Because of our holy God who has existed from everlasting,  
we will not die (Ref.: Habakkuk 1:12).

## **We must be very careful after we have eaten our fill.**

Our God watches over us in this world,  
which is like a barren land in the wilderness.  
However, after we have eaten and are satisfied,  
we often become proud and forget God  
(Ref.: Hosea 13:5-6).

This is akin to the Israelites when they entered the land of Canaan,  
where they enjoyed abundant food, built beautiful houses,  
and amassed flocks, herds, silver, gold, and wealth.

In their pride, they forgot the God  
who had led them out of slavery in Egypt.

To such people, God's word warns:

'Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God  
by failing to observe His commands, His laws,  
and His decrees that I am giving you this day'  
(Ref.: Deuteronomy 8:11-14).

## **We are like foolish and senseless doves ...**

We are like foolish and senseless doves,  
crying out for help from others instead of the Lord.  
Therefore, when we go to those others,  
the Lord will cast His net over us,  
drawing us down like the birds of the air,  
and He will discipline us  
for the evil we have done  
(Ref.: Hosea 7:11-12).

## **We must break up the old ground of our hearts.**

We must break up the old ground of our hearts.  
Now is the time for us to seek God.  
We must plant the seeds of righteousness  
for ourselves and reap the fruits of love.  
Then God will pour out the blessings of salvation  
upon us in His own time and in His own way  
(Ref.: Hosea 10:12).

## **We must examine our actions carefully ...**

We must examine our actions carefully to see  
if we are truly living a church-centered life of faith  
(Ref.: Haggai 1:4-5, 7).

**We have fallen because of our sins.  
Therefore, we must return to God.**

We have fallen because of our sins.  
Therefore, we must return to God.  
And we must ask God to forgive us  
all our sins and accept us generously.  
Therefore, we pray that we may offer  
a sacrifice of praise to God  
(Ref.: Hosea 14:1-2).

**We will believe in and rely on our God forever.**

All people will believe in and rely on their own gods,  
but we will believe in and rely on our God forever  
(Ref.: Micah 4:5).

**We must also mourn for our children whom we love.**

Our children will be the first to follow our sins  
and make the church commit even more sins.  
Therefore, God's disaster will come to our children as well.  
Therefore, we must also mourn for our children whom we love  
(Ref.: Micah 1:13, 16).

## **We need to carefully examine ...**

We need to carefully examine whether everything we are doing now  
is meaningless and useless, like chasing the wind  
(Ref.: Hosea 12:1; Ecclesiastes 2:11).

## **We should not be proud while we are in sin.**

We should not be proud and say to ourselves,  
'God will not do good or evil' while we are in sin  
(Ref.: Zephaniah 1:12).

## **We must be silent before the Lord.**

We must be silent before the Lord, for the great day of the Lord is near,  
it is drawing near, a day of wrath, trouble, and distress,  
a day of darkness and gloom  
(Ref.: Zephaniah 1:7, 14-15).

## **We are followers of the Lord.**

We are followers of the Lord.

We must seek the Lord and ask the Lord

(Ref.: Zephaniah 1:6).

## **We must tear our hearts, fast, weep, mourn, sincerely repent, and return to God.**

Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,  
and full of love, and He feels pain when He punishes.

Therefore, even now, we must tear our hearts, fast, weep,  
mourn, sincerely repent, and return to God

(Ref.: Joel 2:11-13).

## **We should be glad and rejoice with all our heart.**

God has freed us from our punishment and removed our enemy in Jesus Christ.

Since God, our King, is with us, we will never again fear harm.

Therefore, we should sing loudly.

And we should be glad and rejoice with all our heart

(Ref.: Zephaniah 3:14-15).

## **We must be truthful before God.**

We must not rebel against the faithful and holy God.

We must be truthful before God

(Ref.: Hosea 11:12).

## **We must return to God.**

We must return to God, for though He has torn us,

He will heal us; though He has wounded us, He will bind us up

(Ref.: Hosea 6:1).

## **We cannot hide anything from God.**

We cannot hide anything from God,

for He who created us knows everything about us

(Ref.: Hosea 5:3; Psalms 139:1-4, 13-15).

## **We must rely ...**

We must rely on God and not on man

(Ref.: Micah 5:7).

## **We must strive to know God.**

We must strive to know God.

God's appearance is as certain as the dawn.

God will come to us like the spring rain that waters the earth

(Ref.: Hosea 6:3).

## **We must respect God's word ...**

We must respect God's word, keep God's commandments,  
and not be deceived by false gods

(Ref.: Amos 2:4).

## **We must be humble people who obey God's commands.**

We must be humble people who obey God's commands.

So we must seek God and pursue righteousness and humility

(Ref.: Zephaniah 2:3).

## **God, who loves us so much, ...**

God, who loves us so much,

will have mercy on us, His children

(Ref.: Joel 2:18).

## **May He humble us again.**

May God always watch over us so that we do not sin out of pride,

and even if we do sin against God out of pride,

may He humble us again through the bitter hardships of our lives

(Ref.: Amos 9:4-5, 8).



## **God will make us fruitful.**

God will never again allow us to associate with any idols,  
and He will listen to our prayers and continue to care for and protect us.  
And God will make us fruitful through Him and multiply us  
(Ref.: Hosea 14:7-8).

## **He will restore us to our original state.**

The Lord will gather us from our dispersions and give us honor  
and praise among all the peoples of the earth,  
and he will restore us to our original state before our eyes  
(Ref.: Zephaniah 3:20).

## **We will praise the name of our God who has done wonderful things for us.**

As we live abundant lives because God has showered us  
with His abundant grace and blessings,  
we will praise the name of our God  
who has done wonderful things for us  
(Ref.: Joel 2:26).

## **God will discipline us ...**

Therefore, God will discipline us, His people,  
with love in order to restore us  
(Ref.: Hosea 6:11; Hebrews 12:5-11).

## **Even though our pride testifies against us ...**

Even though our pride testifies against us,  
we do not return to our God or seek Him  
(Ref.: Hosea 7:10).

## **God who is our salvation and strengthen**

God is our salvation, so we will be glad and rejoice;  
God is our strength, so he will make us walk on high  
(Ref.: Habakkuk 3:18-19).

## **May our songs not turn into sad lamentations ...**

May our songs not turn into sad lamentations  
or weeping because of bitter suffering  
(Ref.: Amos 8:3, 10).

## **Even when our lives are slowly fading away ...**

Even when our lives are slowly fading away,  
we must once again think of the Lord and pray.  
The Lord will hear our prayers  
(Ref.: Jonah 2:7).

## **God is rooting us deeply in Jesus Christ like the cedars of Lebanon ...**

God is rooting us deeply in Jesus Christ like the cedars of Lebanon,  
making us bloom like lilies, and making our faith grow more and more,  
so that our beauty will be like the olive tree  
and our fragrance will be like the cedars of Lebanon  
(Ref.: Hosea 14:5-6).

## **Our God is with us.**

Our God is with us. He is our mighty Savior.

He is very pleased with us, loves us silently, and sings for us

(Ref.: Zephaniah 3:17).

## **Idolaters will sow the wind and reap the storm.**

Idolaters will sow the wind and reap the storm.

What they sow will not bear fruit.

If they do bear fruit, others will eat it

(Ref.: Hosea 8:7).

## **What good is an idol, made by human hands?**

What good is an idol, made by human hands? It is nothing but a false teacher.

What good is it for someone who makes a dumb idol to trust in it?

(Habakkuk 2:18)

## **The idolatrous believers will fear and mourn ...**

The idolatrous believers will fear and mourn,  
and they will be ashamed and embarrassed  
because their glory will depart  
(Ref.: Hosea 10:5-6).

## **The church that serves idols ...**

The church that serves idols will become useless  
among the people of the world, like a broken vessel  
(Ref.: Hosea 8:8).

## **May God restore them to their original state.**

I pray that the Lord will raise up our broken families and churches again,  
and also establish them again and restore them to their original state  
(Ref.: Amos 9:11, 14).

## **Do not rejoice over me, you enemy devil.**

Do not rejoice over me, you enemy devil.  
When I fall, I will rise again;  
when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light  
(Ref.: Micah 7:8).

## **Instead of being fearful and confused due to the mighty storm visible on the surface of the sea ...**

God threw a great wind upon the sea,  
and He caused a mighty storm to arise in the midst of the sea.  
By defeating the unbelieving sailors,  
the sailors ultimately threw the prophet Jonah into the sea as he wished  
(Jonah 1:4, 12-15).

However, the prophet Jonah prayed to God from the belly of a great fish (2:1)  
and said, 'You cast me into the deep' (v. 3).

When I meditate on this passage,  
I find it interesting that the Creator God  
who threw a great wind upon the sea (1:4)  
also cast the disobedient prophet Jonah into the deep (2:3).  
Instead of being fearful and confused due  
to the mighty storm visible on the surface of the sea,  
it is far better to look only to the Lord  
and cry out to Him from the depths of the sea.

## **The heart of the conspirators**

The heart of the conspirators is like an oven,  
which keeps their anger burning all night long,  
and in the morning it flares up like a blazing fire.  
They are all heated up like an oven and kill their leaders.  
The Lord says: “No one prays to me”  
(Hosea 7:6-7).

## **The righteous will live by faith.**

The wicked will not survive  
because of their pride and dishonesty,  
but the righteous will live by faith  
(Habakkuk 2:4).

## **The church that has become a laughing stock in this world ...**

The church that has become a laughing stock in this world  
will not return to the Most High Lord, but will be like a deceitful (crooked) bow,  
and the leaders of the church, the pastors and elders,  
will be disciplined by the Lord because of their arrogant words  
(Ref.: Hosea 7:16).

## **This is God's grace and love.**

Right now, the Lord, who is our Bridegroom,  
is not only blocking the path  
of the thornbush church that chases after money,  
but He is also building a wall  
so that our church cannot find that path.

Therefore, even as we love to chase after money,  
we cannot catch it, and even when we seek it,  
we cannot obtain it

(Ref. Hosea 2:6-7).

This is God's grace and love.

God is currently preventing us  
from committing further sinful and shameful acts

(Ref.: Genesis 20:6).

## **In such evil times ...**

In such evil times, a wise man keeps silent

(Ref.: Amos 5:13).

## **May He rule over us from now on and forevermore.**

May God gather all the people of God's kingdom and make them a strong nation,  
and may He rule over us from now on and forevermore

(Ref.: Micah 4:6-7).



**The disobedient pastor, who knows very well  
that the church's difficulties are due to his own actions ...**

Just as God prepared a great fish to swallow the disobedient Jonah  
in order to save him, the Lord will rescue the disobedient pastor,  
who knows very well that the church's difficulties are due to his own actions,  
through the grace He has prepared for him  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:17).

**Those who make their own strength their god ...**

Those who make their own strength their god  
will not be free from sin  
(Ref.: Habakkuk 1:11).

**God protects those who put their trust in Him.**

God is good and a refuge in times of trouble;  
He protects those who put their trust in Him  
(Nahum 1:7).

## **I, being someone who tends to avoid challenges, ...**

If the Lord were to command  
a pastor like Jonah to do something,  
I, being someone who tends  
to avoid challenges, would likely come up  
with various excuses  
to escape rather than obey His word.  
I would do everything I could  
to avoid going to those families  
(Ref.: Jonah 1:3).

## **I am a humble person, ashamed even to be called a pastor ...**

I am a humble person, ashamed even to be called a pastor,  
yet the Lord has called me and given me the promise,  
'... I will build My church...' (Matthew 16:18),  
and has sent me back to Victory Presbyterian Church.  
Therefore, my duty is to faithfully deliver the words  
that God gives me to His flock  
(Ref.: Amos 7:12-15; 1 Corinthians 1:28, 15:9;  
2 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 3:8).

## **As I apply this message to my family and the Victory Presbyterian Church I serve ...**

God's amazing work involved making the disobedient prophet  
Jonah pray from the belly of the great fish.  
When God's word came to him a second time,  
He enabled him to obey.  
After hearing Jonah's proclamation, 'In forty days,  
Nineveh will be overthrown,  
the people of Nineveh believed God and fasted,  
not even allowing their animals to drink water.  
Ultimately, from the king of Nineveh down to all the people,  
God led them to turn away from their wicked ways and genuinely repent  
(Jonah 3).

As I apply this message to my family  
and the Victory Presbyterian Church I serve,  
I, as the head of my household and the pastor of the church,  
want to experience God's amazing work of repentance myself.  
By continually listening to the Word of God,  
which is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17),  
and like a hammer and fire (Jeremiah 23:29),  
and through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit dwelling within me,  
I desire to be continually pricked in my conscience  
(Ref.: 1 Samuel 24:5; 2 Samuel 24:10; Acts 2:37).  
May my hardened heart be broken and my cold heart melted,  
so that I can sincerely repent of my sins  
and encourage our family and church to turn away from all sin.

## **People in this land, polluted by sin, are deceiving and lying to each other.**

People in this land, polluted by sin, are deceiving and lying to each other.  
Even pastors are deceiving and lying to the believers.  
However, there are some believers who think of these false pastors  
as true pastors and like them  
(Ref.: Micah 2:11).

## **The believers who are committing sins ...**

The believers who are committing sins  
consider many of the words of God written by the Lord as unfamiliar.  
The Lord is not pleased when they worship God in such a situation  
(Ref.: Hosea 8:12-13).

## **Lord, be a shepherd to your people who live alone ...**

Lord, be a shepherd to your people who live alone,  
guide them, and feed them abundantly  
(Ref.: Micah 7:14).

## **Lord, we are very weak.**

Lord, we are very weak.

Please forgive us

(Reference: Amos 7:2).

## **So that we can return to Him.**

God allows us to be poor

so that we can return to Him

(Ref.: Amos 4:6).

## **The Lord cannot help but see them.**

We do not realize that the Lord remembers all our evils.

Our sins surround us, and the Lord cannot help but see them

(Ref.: Hosea 7:2).

## **May the Lord have mercy on us.**

We must never idolize anyone or ourselves other than God,  
and we must never rely on him or ourselves again.

May the Lord have mercy on us

(Ref.: Hosea 14:3).

## **May the Lord fill the church, the body of the Lord ...**

May the Lord fill the church, the body of the Lord,  
with His glory and grant it His peace

(Ref.: Haggai 2:7, 9).

## **The Lord will take away all our pleasure in money.**

If we love money more than the Lord, idolizing and serving money,  
the Lord will expose our shame through our love of money.

And the Lord will take away all our pleasure in money

(Ref.: Hosea 2:10-11).

## **The Lord has recorded many of God's words ...**

The Lord has recorded many of God's words,  
yet we, as His church, may be forgetting the Creator God  
and setting up more idols in our hearts ...  
(Ref.: Hosea 8:14).

## **The Lord will bring down from high places ...**

The Lord will bring down from high places  
those who are deceived by their own pride  
and make them worthless  
(Ref.: Obadiah 1:2-4).

## **The Lord has trained us and made us strong ...**

The Lord has trained us and made us strong,  
but we plot evil against Him  
(Ref.: Hosea 7:15).

## **The Lord will discipline us with love.**

The Lord will discipline us with love for the number of days  
we have followed money and forgotten the Lord and served money  
(Ref.: Hosea 2:13; Hebrews 12:6).

## **The Lord is our peace.**

The Lord is our peace.  
May the Lord come and rule over us with God's power  
and God's majesty and make us live in safety  
(Ref.: Micah 5:4-5).

## **Woe to God's people who have turned away ...**

Woe to God's people who have turned away  
from the Lord and sinned against God  
(Ref.: Hosea 7:13).



## **The Lord will surely show us His faithfulness ...**

Our Lord is a God who is pleased to forgive our sins  
and show us His steadfast love.

The Lord will surely show us His faithfulness  
and steadfast love as He promised

(Ref.: Micah 7:18, 20).

## **We must obey the words of God that we hear ...**

We must fear God (revere Him) and obey the words of God  
that we hear through the servants of the Lord whom God has sent  
(Ref.: Haggai 1:12).

## **Isn't it because of our sins and faults ...**

Isn't it because of our sins and faults  
that our homes and churches are tilting  
and collapsing like water pouring down a steep slope?  
(Ref.: Micah 1:4-5)

**The church is currently receiving,  
and must continue to receive, rebuke.**

The church is currently receiving, and must continue to receive, rebuke.

The reason is that the church is unfaithful.

In other words, the bride of Christ is loving wealth more than the Bridegroom.

Our church is spiritually immoral, engaging in spiritual prostitution  
and doing things that are truly shameful.

While we outwardly follow Jesus, inwardly we are chasing after money.

Therefore, our church is being rebuked and must continue to be rebuked

(Ref.: Hosea 2:2-5; Matthew 6:24).

**Aren't we Christians now mixed with the people of the world  
who do not believe in Jesus?**

Aren't we Christians now mixed with the people of the world who do not believe in Jesus?

So, aren't we useless like unripe bread in the eyes of the Lord?

Aren't we unaware that the people of the world are slowly spreading their power?

(Ref.: Hosea 7:8-9)

**It will come without delay.**

It may not happen immediately, but the promises God has made to us  
are set to be fulfilled at the appointed time.

That time will surely come and will definitely be realized.

Even if the fulfillment of those promises seems slow, we must wait.

It will come without delay (Ref.: Habakkuk 2:3).

## **Those who truly repent**

Our God is a God who turns away from disaster  
and blesses those who truly repent  
(Ref.: Joel 2:14; Jonah 3:10).

## **True wisdom**

It is true wisdom to serve God with fear  
(Micah 6:9).

**God will fill a true pastor with the Holy Spirit and power,  
granting him the right discernment  
to boldly declare the sins of the church.**

However, God will fill a true pastor with the Holy Spirit and power,  
granting him the right discernment to boldly declare the sins of the church.  
Therefore, a true pastor will say that the church is being established  
in sin by leaders who hate justice and practice wrongdoing,  
and that the church's building is also constructed in sin.  
Additionally, a true pastor will rebuke false pastors  
who take bribes from congregants, teaching the Bible  
or giving blessing sermons while saying,  
'Immanuel, God is with you, and no disaster will come upon you.'  
A true pastor will declare that the church is decaying  
because of these false pastors  
(Ref.: Micah 3:8-12).

## **God will send down a shower of blessings.**

We will rejoice and be glad  
when we see what God has done for His church.  
God will send down a shower of blessings  
as a sign of His forgiveness  
(Ref.: Joel 2:23; Ezekiel 34:26).

## **I hope that we all experience the great grace of salvation.**

Even if the great waves (Jonah 2:3) overwhelm us,  
and we find ourselves trapped in the deep sea (v. 5)  
or in the land of death, deep beneath the mountains of the sea (v. 6),  
we will again look to the Lord (v. 4) and earnestly seek His help  
even from such a grave place (v. 2).  
I hope that we all experience the great grace of salvation  
as the Lord rescues our lives from death (v. 6).

## **The great God who rules over great winds, great storms, and great fish**

Because of the great wind that God sent, a mighty storm arose in the middle of the sea, causing the ship that the prophet Jonah was on to nearly break apart.

While the unbelieving sailors were terrified and cried out to their gods for help, Jonah was fast asleep in the lower deck. He spent three days and nights inside the great fish that God had prepared, praying to his God (Jonah 1:4-5, 17; 2:1).

As I meditate on this passage, several thoughts come to mind:

(1) I believe that even in the midst of the storm that nearly broke the ship, God awakened Jonah, who was deeply asleep, with the captain's words: 'What are you doing asleep?

Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish' (1:6).

This teaches us that God can awaken us, who are spiritually asleep even amidst any suffering or pain, even through the cries of unbelievers.

(2) It is interesting that while the unbelieving sailors, who served idols, were desperately crying out to their gods for help in the midst of the crisis, the prophet Jonah was deeply asleep in the lower deck, not even crying out to God. Eventually, he prayed to God only from the belly of the great fish.

The God who brought the great wind upon the sea and caused a mighty storm (1:4) ultimately led Jonah to pray (2:1) from the great fish (v. 17).

I pray that the great God will stir up the great winds and mighty storms in our lives so that we may earnestly seek Him even in situations

akin to being in the belly of a great fish and cry out to Him fervently.

(3) When I reflect on Jonah being in the belly of the great fish for three days and nights, I am reminded of the words of Jesus, who was also in the depths of the earth for three days and nights (Matthew 12:40). The servant of God, Jonah, was in the belly of the great fish as a result of his disobedience to God's command, while Jesus, the Son of God, was in the depths of the earth for three days and nights despite His obedience to God's command, even to the point of dying on the cross.

## **Our refuge and fortress**

God is our refuge and fortress (Ref.: Joel 3:16).

### **I want to learn the heart of God the Father.**

When God's people had turned away from Him and were engaging in whoring, God commanded the prophet Hosea, 'Go and marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her.' So, the prophet Hosea went and married Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she bore him three children (Hosea 1).

The term 'whoring' refers to the Israelites defiling themselves through immoral acts by serving idols (Psalms 106:39).

In fact, during the time of the prophet Hosea, the Israelites had turned away from God to pursue 'other gods' (Hosea 4:10). Furthermore, 'idols' or 'other gods' do not only refer to foreign deities but also to the foreign nations that the Israelites relied on instead of God (Ref.: Ezekiel 16:15; 23:5).

As I meditate on this passage, there are two points I find hard to understand:

- (1) Why did God command the prophet Hosea to marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her?
- (2) How was the prophet Hosea able to obey God's command?

Especially when we look at Leviticus 21:7, God commanded that a holy priest must not marry a prostitute, a defiled woman, or a divorced woman. Instead, the priest must marry a virgin; he must not marry a widow, a divorced woman, or a prostitute.

Otherwise, his children will be defiled among the people (vv. 13-15).

When I think about the first of these two incomprehensible points, I think that perhaps God was trying to teach His servant, the prophet Hosea,

His heart toward the Israelites who were committing filthy spiritual prostitution by marrying prostitutes and having fornicating children.

The lyrics of the gospel song “Father, Where Your Heart Is” come to mind:

“Father, O,God, Let my heart will ever be in the place wherever Your heart is  
Father, O, God, let the tears flowing from my eyes stream into the place where yours are

Father, O God, let my eyes see those souls whom Your eyes are seeking for

Father, O God let my feet run to the land where Your heart is weeping over

Let my heart be like Yours, conforming to Your heart

And Let my will be Yours, obeying You alone

I want to know Your heart with all of my heart

That my life here may be fully Yours.

When I go to Korea once a year to do “Internet Ministry to Korea” by the grace of God,

I learn “Heavenly Father’s Heart.”

He directs my eyes to the souls that God the Father is looking at.

He allows my heart to be in the souls that have God the Father’s heart.

He allows my tears to be in the souls that have God the Father’s tears.

## **Those who sin against Him and do not repent**

God will bring disaster on those who sin against Him  
and do not repent, causing them to walk like blind people

(Ref.: Zephaniah 1:17).

## **God has shown us what is good.**

God has shown us what is good.  
What the Lord requires of us is to act justly,  
to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God  
(Ref.: Micah 6:8).

## **The blessings of material wealth that God has given us are meant solely for His glory.**

The blessings of material wealth that God has given us  
are meant solely for His glory.  
However, we seem to be driven by greed, idolizing money,  
and are consumed with accumulating more of it.  
Yet, it appears that we do not recognize this  
(Ref.: Hosea 2:8).

## **I earnestly pray that God will allow us all to hear His message of repentance ...**

I earnestly pray that God will allow us all to hear His message of repentance,  
so that we may all have a heart of repentance and sincerely pray to God for forgiveness.  
May we all lead a life of faith where we acknowledge our sins and turn away from all evil  
(Ref.: Jonah 3, especially vv. 5, 8, and 10).



## **May God break all our yokes ...**

May God break all our yokes  
and tear apart all the chains that bind us  
(Ref.: Nahum 1:13).

## **We pray that God will have mercy on us ...**

We pray that God will have mercy on us so that we, the church of God,  
will no longer be the objects of contempt and ridicule of the people of the world  
(Ref.: Joel 2:17).

## **Let us hold onto the promise that God has given us with faith.**

Let us hold onto the promise that God has given us with faith:  
'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'  
Therefore, I pray that we all may live peacefully in the Lord  
(Ref.: Micah 4:4; Philippians 4:6-7).

**What God wants from us is not a sacrifice (worship)  
like a thousand burnt offerings.**

What God wants from us is not a sacrifice (worship)  
like a thousand burnt offerings.  
God wants mercy and for us to know Him  
(Ref.: Hosea 6:6).

**I pray that God will ...**

I pray that God will completely destroy all traces of idolatry  
(Ref.: Zephaniah 1:4).

**God will satisfy His church ...**

God will satisfy His church and give it strength again,  
so that we will never again be despised  
and put to shame by the people of the world  
(Ref.: Joel 2:19, 22, 26, 27).

## **We who are with God ...**

We who are with God must hate evil, love good,  
and pursue good (Ref.: Amos 5:14-15).

## **God will never answer their prayers.**

Even if the pastors and elders who should realize  
justice hate good and love evil and cry out to God,  
God will never answer their prayers.  
Because we have done evil, God will turn away when we pray  
(Ref.: Micah 3:1-4).  
Just as faith without works is dead (James 2:17),  
prayer without works is dead prayer.

## **God will remember their wickedness and will surely punish them for their sins.**

Just as a bird catcher spreads nets to catch birds,  
there may be many deeply corrupted church members  
who set nets and traps to catch pastors in the church.  
God will remember their wickedness  
and will surely punish them for their sins  
(Ref.: Hosea 9:8-9).

## **God never leaves ...**

God never leaves anyone to be punished

(Nahum 1:3)

## **God desires to rescue the sinful church ...**

God desires to rescue the sinful church, but we speak lies against Him,

do not sincerely cry out to God, and only weep in our beds.

We gather together in church yet turn our backs on the Lord

(Ref.: Hosea 7:13-14).

## **God can reveal His amazing power even through disobedient pastors ...**

God can reveal His amazing power even through disobedient pastors,

making those unbelievers who are with them greatly fear God

and come to believe in Jesus Christ, leading them to worship Him

(Ref.: Jonah 1:16).

**I pray that God will fully use  
missionary Manny Kim, who is obedient ...**

Just as God used the disobedient prophet Jonah to proclaim His word,  
resulting in a remarkable movement of repentance among the people of Nineveh,  
I pray that God will fully use missionary Manny Kim, who is obedient,  
to serve the people of Ohaka with His loving heart.  
May he boldly and wisely share God's word,  
leading to God's amazing work of repentance and salvation, in Jesus' name  
(Ref.: Jonah 3).

**God knows ...**

God knows how many our transgressions are  
and how great our sins are  
(Ref.: Amos 5:12).

**God will leave behind those who are gentle and humble among us.**

On that day, we will not need to feel shame  
for all the acts of rebellion against God,  
for God will remove all the proud and self-righteous among us,  
ensuring that we will no longer be arrogant in His holy church.  
God will leave behind those who are gentle and humble among us.  
They will trust in God, and they will not do evil, lie, or deceive others  
(Ref.: Zephaniah 3:11-13).

## **God will take care of us ...**

God will take care of us  
and restore us to our original state  
(Ref.: Zephaniah 2:7).

## **God knows well ...**

God knows well that our love for Him is  
like the morning mist and like the dew that quickly disappears  
(Ref.: Hosea 6:4).

## **God saw a terrible thing in the Lord's church.**

God saw a terrible thing in the Lord's church.  
The bride, the church, had left her husband, the Lord,  
and played prostitutes with idols,  
and the Lord's church had become defiled  
(Ref.: Hosea 6:10).

## **We must follow only God.**

As God's people, we must follow only God  
(Ref.: Hosea 9:10).

## **Those who come to love the blessings of material wealth ...**

Those who come to love the blessings of material wealth  
received from God more than God Himself,  
and who, in their greed, strive to obtain  
more of that wealth through their own efforts,  
ultimately dedicate their bodies and minds to that idol.  
In the end, they will inevitably become as defiled  
as the idols of the material wealth they love  
(Ref.: Hosea 9:10).

## **Those who have a spiritually unfaithful heart ...**

Those who have a spiritually unfaithful heart, loving money more than God,  
have defiled themselves and truly do not know God.  
Their love for money and their pursuit of it, akin to spiritual prostitution,  
prevent them from returning to their God  
(Ref.: Hosea 5:3-4; Luke 16:14; 1 Timothy 6:10).

## **Those who love their children more than God and commit spiritual prostitution ...**

Those who love their children more than God and commit spiritual prostitution  
will not be able to raise their children well, and woe to them  
(Ref.: Hosea 9:1, 10-12).

## God hates ...

God hates our pride very much (Ref.: Amos 6:8).

**God clearly relented from his anger toward the Ninevites, who had truly repented, but God's servant, the prophet Jonah, was so angry at God that he wanted to die.**

Although there was no reason for Jonah to be angry to the point of wishing to die in God's eyes, he went out from the city of Nineveh and made a shelter on the east side of the city, sitting in its shade to see what would happen to the city (Jonah 4:4-5). Clearly, Jonah knew that God had relented from bringing the disaster He had declared upon the repentant people of Nineveh (3:10-4:2). Yet, by going out from the city and making a shelter to sit in its shade, it seems that Jonah still wanted God to destroy Nineveh, as he had previously proclaimed (3:4). From Jonah's perspective, God clearly told him, 'Go to that great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message that I give you' (2:2). He entered the city and walked around all day, proclaiming that in forty days Nineveh would be overthrown (4:4). The people of Nineveh believed the message he proclaimed (5:5), sincerely prayed to God, repented of their wrongdoing, and turned from their evil ways (8:8). As a result, God relented from the disaster He had planned for them and withdrew His anger so that they would not perish (9-10:10). While God clearly withdrew His anger from the genuinely repentant people of Nineveh, Jonah,



the prophet of God, became so angry that he wished to die (4:1, 3).  
Jonah's intense anger toward God suggests  
that he wanted Nineveh to be destroyed to that extent.  
While God clearly desires for everyone  
to repent and be saved through faith in Jesus,  
might we, like Jonah, be stubbornly holding onto our own wishes  
for the destruction of those we personally dislike or hate?  
When God's will collides with our own (when there is a conflict),  
we should pray, like Jesus, 'Not my will, but yours be done, Father'  
(Luke 22:42).

## **God will not ...**

God will not put us to shame  
(Micah 2:6).

## **God will surely heal our fallen hearts.**

God will surely heal our fallen hearts  
and continue to love us to our fullest  
(Ref.: Hosea 14:4).

## **God led us with cords of love ...**

Father God loved us as His own children when we were young,  
teaching us how to walk, bending down to feed us, and holding us in His arms.  
God led us with cords of love, calling us out from the kingdom of Satan, like Egypt,  
and saving us, as well as removing the yoke of sin from our necks.  
However, as God calls us, are we not drifting further away from Him,  
serving idols in this sinful world and unwilling to return to Him?  
(Ref.: Hosea 11:1-5)

## **God has redeemed us from the power of Sheol and delivered us from death.**

God has redeemed us from the power of Sheol  
and delivered us from death.  
Therefore, 'the saying that is written will come to pass:  
Death has been swallowed up in victory.'  
As a result, 'Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?'  
This repentance has hidden itself from the eyes of God  
(Ref.: Hosea 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:54-55).

## **Our God is a God who hears our cries of repentance ...**

Our God is a God who hears our cries of repentance, forgives us, changes his mind, and does not bring disaster on us any more (Ref.: Amos 7:2-3, 5-6; Jonah 3:5-10).

## **Those who decide to turn away from God and act according to their own desires ...**

Those who decide to turn away from God and act according to their own desires will inevitably bear the yoke of sin and wander in this world. As a result, they will have no choice but to cry out to God in their suffering. Only God can remove the yoke of their sin (Ref.: Hosea 11:6-7).

## **May God inspires us to be dedicated to building up God's church.**

May God touch the hearts of the church leaders and all of us, inspiring us to be dedicated to building up our Almighty God's church (Ref.: Haggai 1:14).

## **God's way is right.**

God's way is right  
and the righteous walk in it,  
but sinners stumble and fall  
(Ref.: Hosea 14:9).

## **The word of God is beneficial ...**

The word of God is beneficial to those who live honestly  
(Ref.: Micah 2:7).

**His word says: 'When they are in distress,  
they will earnestly seek me.'**

God is still waiting for us to acknowledge our sins and sincerely seek Him.  
His word says: 'When they are in distress, they will earnestly seek me'  
(Hosea 5:15).

## **Those who forsake the grace**

All who worship false and worthless things  
are those who forsake the grace that God has given them  
(Jonah 2:8).

## **Before the great and dreadful day of God comes ...**

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved  
before the great and dreadful day of God comes  
(Ref.: Joel 2:31-32).

## **Proud people will become slaves to wine ...**

Proud people will become slaves to wine,  
restless and greedy, and will be as insatiable as death  
(Ref.: Habakkuk 2:5).

## **‘Look always to your God.’**

Almighty God tells us:

“Return to your God and live according to the principles of love and justice, and look always to your God” (Ref.: Hosea 12:4-6).

## **God will work together to serve Him.**

At that time, God will cleanse all of our lips  
so that we can call on His name and work together to serve Him  
(Ref.: Zephaniah 3:9).

## **Could it be that the reason for the sorrow filling this land is ....**

Could it be that the reason for the sorrow filling this land is  
that 'there is no truth or love in the land, and no knowledge of God;  
only cursing, lying, murder, stealing, and adultery,  
and violence and bloodshed are never-ending'?  
(Hosea 4:1-3).

## **Could it be that the church, much like a lush vineyard bearing abundant fruit ...**

Could it be that the church, much like a lush vineyard bearing abundant fruit,  
is sinning against God even more as it becomes more beautiful and splendid?  
(Hosea 10:1; Ezekiel 16:14-15).

## **Haven't the church members become like ...**

Haven't the church members become  
like those who fight with their pastors?  
(Ref.: Hosea 4:4)

## **Could it be that we are ...**

Could it be that we are now pleasing  
one another with lies and evil?  
(Ref.: Hosea 7:3)

**Could it be that the Lord is rebuking  
the pastors of the church in this way?**

Could it be that the Lord is rebuking the pastors of the church in this way?

'O pastors, I am rebuking you. Do not slander or criticize one another'

(Hosea 4:4).

**Could it be that the Lord is now rebuking  
our church on this earth like this?**

Could it be that the Lord is now rebuking our church on this earth like this?

'There is no truth, no love, no knowledge of me in this church'

(Ref.: Hosea 4:1).

**Could it be that the Lord is saying to our church,  
'You are all adulterers'?**

Could it be that the Lord is saying to our church, 'You are all adulterers'?

Just as the flames continually rise from the baker's oven, are not our fleshly desires,  
lust of the eyes, and pride of life constantly surging up?

(Hosea 7:4; 1 John 2:16)



**Could it be that while God's temple lies in ruins,  
we are living in lavish homes?**

Could it be that while God's temple lies in ruins, we are living in lavish homes?

We must carefully examine our actions. God desires for us to build His temple.

Then He will take joy in it and receive glory from it

(Haggai 1:4-5, 7, 8).

**If we are idolizing money and serving both God and wealth  
without repenting to God ...**

If we are idolizing money and serving both God and wealth

(Matthew 6:24) without repenting to God,

then God's calamity may reach the church, causing it to suffer.

The wounds of the church will remain unhealed because of this calamity

(Micah 1:9, 12).

**God will restore ...**

God will restore the glory of the church

(Ref.: Nahum 2:2).

## **Woe to the church that is full of tyranny and sin, and is filthy and corrupt!**

Woe to the church that is full of  
tyranny and sin, and is filthy and corrupt!  
They do not obey the commands of the Lord,  
the head of the church,  
do not accept the teachings of the Lord,  
do not trust in their God,  
and do not draw near to God.  
Their leaders are like roaring lions,  
like ravenous wolves in the evening  
that do not leave their prey until the morning,  
they are rash and untrustworthy people,  
they defile the church and break the commandments.  
The Lord is righteous and does not do wrong,  
and He surely reveals His righteousness every morning,  
but those wicked church leaders and members  
continue to sin and know no shame  
(Ref.: Zephaniah 3:1-5).